

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A portable media device, comprising:
2 a memory configured to store digital content;
3 a wireless transceiver configured to wirelessly transmit and receive digital
4 content;
5 an output configured to render digital content; and
6 a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver and the output,
7 the controller being configured to control wireless transmission and rendering of
8 digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital content.

1 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control
2 playback of digital content stored in the memory based upon a user license
3 confirmation.

1 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a
2 user license for a digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital
3 content.

1 4. The device of claim 3, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a
2 user license based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in the meta-data
3 with a user identifier stored in the memory.

1 5. The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to limit
2 playback of the digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation.

1 6. The device of claim 5, wherein the controller is configured to enable
2 playback of only a sample of the digital content in response to a failed user license
3 confirmation.

1 7. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to direct
2 received digital content selectively to unrestricted memory storage or to restricted
3 memory storage based upon a user license confirmation.

1 8. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to direct
2 licensed digital content to unrestricted memory storage and to direct unlicensed
3 digital content to restricted memory storage.

1 9. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to restrict
2 storage of unlicensed digital works to a predetermined quantity.

1 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to enable
2 wireless transmission of digital content stored in unrestricted memory and to prevent
3 wireless transmission of digital content stored in restricted memory.

1 11. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to decrypt
2 encrypted digital content with a cryptographic key stored in the memory.

1 12. A digital content distribution system, comprising:
2 two or more portable media devices each comprising a memory for storing
3 digital content and a transceiver for wirelessly transmitting digital content to and
4 wirelessly receiving digital content from another portable media device; and
5 a license manager configured to associate digital content with meta-data for
6 controlling wireless transmission and rendering of digital content from one portable
7 media device to another.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to embed a user identifier in meta-data associated with purchased digital content.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital content.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to a digital content distributor in response to a purchase of the
3 corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing meta-data
4 with an appropriate embedded distributor identifier.

1 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted
3 playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital
4 content by the user.

1 17. The system of claim 12, further comprising a licensed distributor
2 configured to transmit to one or more portable media devices meta-data associated
3 with broadcasted digital content and containing an embedded distributor identifier.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to the digital content distributor in response to a purchase of
3 the corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing the
4 meta-data with the embedded distributor identifier.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital
3 content.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted
3 playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital
4 content by the user.